

## **Safety Review Committee**

**June 17, 2005**

**10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**

### **Minutes**

#### **Members Present**

Joel Ager, Michael Banda, Ben Feinberg, Ken Fletcher, Richard Kadel, Augusto Macchiavelli, Peter Seidl, Scott Taylor, Weyland Wong

#### **Members Absent**

John Bercovitz, Paul Blodgett, Phil Hugenholtz, Mack Kennedy, Don Lucas, Robert Mueller, Karen Ramorino, Linfeng Rao, Robert Schoenlein, Linda Smith, Hisao Yokota

#### **Others Present**

Richard DeBusk, Eugene Lau, Phyllis Pei, Aundra Richards, Nancy Rothermich, Donna Spencer, Pat Thomas

### **Meet the BSO Site Manager -- Aundra Richards**

Aundra Richards became the Berkeley Site Office Manager in March 2005. She came to meet the SRC members and share some thoughts about safety. Aundra invited safety committee/subcommittee chairs to meet with Ray Orbach during his June 24<sup>th</sup> visit to LBNL. Aundra feels that LBNL is her Laboratory as well as ours, and that she shares in our successes and failures. Her management style is very straightforward. She asks questions and tells you what she is thinking – no surprises. Aundra asked SRC members to let her know if she can be of assistance. She said we have some incredible minds here and do fantastic research.

### **Chairman's Comments – Ben Feinberg**

Ben Feinberg acted on behalf of Don Lucas, who was unable to attend the meeting. The minutes of the April meeting were approved. (There was no meeting in May.)

### **MESH Status**

- The EH&S Division MESH is scheduled in July.
- The draft report for the Life Sciences MESH has been sent to the Division for factual accuracy review.
- A schedule is being developed for the Computing Sciences MESH and the Division is collecting materials. Martin Dooley (previous Safety Coordinator who retired recently) is coming back to assist.
- The Directorate MESH is on a 2-year review cycle. The previous MESH report focused on ASD issues, which are no longer relevant due to the reorganization. Business Services is still included, although Division Business Managers are no longer matrixed. The Human Resources Center employees are still matrixed. The MESH team will look at whether divisions take responsibility for their HR Center's safety. It was decided to go ahead with a MESH review this year

because it would give the new management a better understanding of ergonomics issues.

- The Genomics MESH is scheduled in August. The Joint Genome Institute and on-site Genomics staff function almost like two separate divisions. There are lots of Lawrence Livermore employees at the JGI.

### **SRC and Subcommittee Charters**

The SRC Charter is posted on our website. Don Lucas has been reviewing the charter. The charter doesn't describe the SRC role in advising the Lab Director on EH&S activities. The Electrical Safety Subcommittee charter is in PUB-3000. Ben asked subcommittee chairs to ensure they have a charter in place that reflects their current activities. The subcommittee charters could be posted on the SRC website. Final MESH reports, but not drafts, could also be posted on the website. It was suggested that we could have a private section of the website with SRC-member only access for posting draft documents under review.

### **Electrical Safety Update – Richard DeBusk**

LBNL has received a draft report of the DOE electrical safety review findings. One of the recommendations was to complete the revision of Chapter 8 of PUB-3000. EH&S brought in a consultant, Aaron Zude, to help with the writing. A draft of the Chapter 8 revisions has been completed and the Electrical Safety Subcommittee is reviewing it. It is expected to be ready in early July, about a week before the next SRC meeting. One of the goals of the re-write is to create a shorter, policy-type document and put the related information into appendices.

The chapter has been updated to current standards. The laser section will be discussed with the Laser Safety Subcommittee. One of the problems is that the NFPA 70E standards were not developed with research in mind. A DOE R&D workgroup is trying to develop implementation guidelines, but they are just getting started. DOE has an electrical safety manual. Electrical safety information is provided to employees in a 1-time course. We need to make references available. Daily briefings are required for energized work that is done every day. Some contractors doing maintenance routinely work hot. There are still concerns about potential contact with energized equipment in servers and computing equipment. (There were recent power failures at NERSC that shut down PG&E power. The response from Facilities was amazing.)

Facilities is incorporating NFPA 70E requirements into service agreements for contractors with 10 or more people on site now. Richard DeBusk and Georgeanna Perdue have been working with Procurement. We need to define when a second person is required, and what qualifications are required for the "person-in-charge",

There was an electrical safety near-miss event at AFRD. It attracted a high level of interest at LBNL and DOE. All electrical safety events have a high visibility and require a quick response. Some of the lessons learned from the incident are to ensure only

qualified Facilities personnel work on electrical distribution systems, and to assume systems are energized unless proven otherwise.

### **Lessons Learned Program – Phyllis Pei**

EH&S would like to discuss accidents, occurrences, and lessons learned at SRC meetings. There were 36 OSHA recordable accidents last year, so there would be about 3 events to discuss per meeting. ORPS means Occurrence Reporting and Processing System. PAAA is the Price-Anderson Amendment Act. A summary of the incidents with generally applicable Lessons Learned would be presented to the SRC. For example, there have been 10 electrical safety near misses. More detailed review would be done by the subcommittees.

SRC members suggested that the Division Safety Coordinators' committee might be a better venue for discussing Lessons Learned, if the goal is to ensure the information is communicated throughout LBNL.

The Lessons Learned website is another method for communicating information. It can be opened with an LDAP password. The site is not well organized or kept up. The summaries need to be in a standard format, and the information needs to be searchable. Weyland Wong recommended that some important lessons learned about incident investigations also be communicated, including ensuring incidents are promptly reported, and securing the scene.

The SRC used to be involved in identifying root causes of accidents and incident but our role has changed to recommending and reviewing policy changes. Accidents are discussed at subcommittee meetings. The Biosafety and Radiation Safety committees also discuss accidents. They are not subcommittees of the SRC.

### **Earthquake Drill & Accident Rate Trends – Richard DeBusk**

First, Richard wanted to discuss the outcome of the recent earthquake drill. There were no reports of non-participation. Most buildings were evacuated in 3 minutes or less. It took about 4 1/2 minutes to evacuate the Bldg. 50 complex due to problems with the public address system. Of course, a real earthquake is self-announcing and will not require a PA system to initiate response. The condition and location of some of the emergency equipment storage cabinets needs to be improved. The ALS shut off the x-ray beam during the drill, which encouraged researchers to leave the building. A drill doesn't simulate real earthquake conditions, when we can expect some employees to panic and attempt to leave the site.

Accident rates have improved since the high point in March/April, but LBNL will not meet this year's Total Recordable Case goal of 1.1 case per 100 employees. Our rate is 1.79. Next year, the goal is .89. We had 36 events last year. Richard Kadel would like to discuss the accident statistics with Matt Kotowski to examine whether the changes are significant. Most of the injuries are in Operations divisions (Facilities, Business

Services, Engineering). We need to focus on the high-risk groups, and manage the effects of change and resulting stress. The Operations groups have had supervisor safety training, but it may not be adequate. It might be better to combine all the training needs for supervisors (safety, human resources, etc.) into one course and require all supervisors to complete the course. The most common injury types in FY05 were repetitive motion, lifting, and moving/handling object.

First aid cases and near misses are leading indicators. Many of the first aid cases were from Guests. There were no recordable accidents from electrical events, but the number of close calls and high potential consequences make electrical safety a major concern. Several of the first aids were for electric shocks.

All accidents are not equal, and there are other statistics that might be more useful than accident rates. There could be a grading system for the seriousness of the consequences of the accident to individuals. An analysis of cost to the Lab would also be useful.

We must improve in ergonomics to meet the goals. Early intervention is important. If an ergonomics evaluator recommends exercises, it is not reportable, but if the employee visits a physical therapist, it is reportable. Jeffery Chung can provide expert help, and he has a nurse and a graduate student in ergonomics providing support. If an employee visits their physician, insurance companies encourage filing a Worker's Compensation claim. Ergonomic injuries can result in short or long-term disability. Age, exercise, and lifestyle can contribute to injuries

#### **Waste Generator Guidelines – Nancy Rothermich**

Nancy offered the Committee the opportunity to comment on the revised guides for generators of hazardous waste, mixed waste, and radioactive waste. There are no changes in policy or procedure. The revisions are to make the guides more user-friendly.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia M. Thomas, SRC Secretary